



Kimberly A. Foster
Executive Director

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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DR. HARRIETTE F. WILLIAMS
TRULA WORTHY-CLAYTON, VICE CHAIR

APPROVED MINUTES

The **Special Meeting** of the Commission for Children and Families was held on Monday, **March 3, 2008**, in Room B-22 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles. 90012. (Please note that these minutes are intended as a summary and not as a verbatim transcription of events at this meeting.)

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (No Quorum Established)

Adelina Sorkin
Tina Pederson
Dr. Harriette F. Williams
Trula J. Worthy-Clayton
Helen Kleinberg

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT (Excused/Unexcused)

Patricia Curry
Ann Franzen
Rev. Cecil L. Murray
Stacey Savelle
Susan Friedman
Saundra Rudnick
Carol O. Biondi
Dr. LaDoris McClaney

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Sorkin provided a brief overview of the purpose of today's Special Commission Meeting. She informed the Commission that the meeting was convened to discuss and vote on two items: 1) Faith-based survey and letter to faith-based community; 2) CEO's recommendation regarding the Office of Independent Review (OIR). However, due to the lack of a quorum these items were discussed and no vote was taken.

Regarding the Faith-Based Survey, Chair Sorkin updated the Commission on the first Faith-Based Surveys sent to DCFS and Probation managers. DCFS response to the survey was 67%.

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However, we were advised by the Probation Department that there were union issues regarding completing the survey and Probation protocol needed to be followed. Probation was informed that two Probation managers reviewed and provided input on the survey. In addition, Probation has been represented at the Committee level.

Regarding the current proposed survey that will be sent to the faith-based community, the Commission was also advised that Rev. Sunny Kang modified the original survey form by making some minor changes in order to distribute it to the Faith Community. In addition Rev Sunny Kang prepared a draft cover letter for distribution with the survey form. The survey form and letter will be submitted to the Commission for approval with a goal of having it disseminated through various Ecumenical Councils and Prayer Breakfasts' throughout the County. The hope is that the survey can be returned by mid-April in order to compile the data garnered from it and submit a report with recommendations to the Board of Supervisors

Suggestions were made to include some of the language discussed at the February 19, 2008 Faith-Based Committee Meeting in the cover letter (i.e. identifying more clearly the important role the Faith Community has in the community, including the role of the Commission and their direct reporting line to the Board of Supervisors and its authority). Additional discussion centered on modifying the survey form to be more inclusive of Probation; and to explore additional efforts where the Faith Community may be involved with at risk children and community resources/services, but is not involved with DCFS. Commissioner Worthy-Clayton asked if the mailing list could be provided prior to the review for inclusiveness.

County Counsel reminded the Commission that the survey form and letter should be reviewed by their office prior to being placed on the agenda.

Helen Kleinberg announced the Board of Supervisors is exploring looking into reestablishing the Office of Independent Review (OIR) to review child fatality cases. Commissioner Kleinberg suggested having the Child Fatality Committee look into the issue as DCFS is the need of the funding that would be used for the OIR. In addition she informed the Commission that the OIR issue will be discussed at the Children's Cluster meeting at the end of March.

These two items will be placed on the next agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting was adjourned with Commissioners attending the training on Sexual Harassment and Cultural Diversity.